

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Appln. No.: 09/965,887

REMARKS

Applicant adds new claims 19-38 more fully to cover various embodiments of Applicant's invention as disclosed in the specification. Therefore, claims 1-38 are now pending in the application.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kuhn et al. (Kuhn). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection as follows.

Applicant's claimed invention provides information offering apparatuses and methods for a vehicle, which comprise unique combinations of features and method steps, including, *inter alia*, calculation of accumulative information, such as the histogram of the vehicle information or a standard deviation, based on the vehicle information relating to fuel consumption, which are detected by the detectors such as various sensors, the vehicle information is marked, and the evaluation result is calculated to be notified to the driver. Thus, the driver is able to know whether or not he or she is driving in an ecologically friendly manner.¹

Kuhn does not teach or suggest calculating and evaluating "the accumulative information, such as the histogram of the vehicle and the standard deviation", which indicates the driving condition of the vehicle, to notify the evaluation result to a user.

In Kuhn, various sensors and detectors are used to detect, not accumulative, but momentary change of the engine speed, the traveled distance, as well as the momentary position of the gas pedal (see Id., column 3, lines 47 to 54) to evaluate the "momentary" driving situation

¹ The knowledge regarding ecologically friendly operation is one of possible benefits which may be achieved by some implementations of the invention. Such benefits are not a requirement of the claims and do not in any way impute additional limitations to the claims.

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of the vehicle.

In contrast, according to Applicant's claimed invention, the driving condition of the vehicle is detected and evaluated based on the accumulative information such as the histogram and the standard deviation. Therefore, the driving manner can be evaluated over a relatively long-term, so that a total driving manner, such as the tendency and/or habit of the driving, can be calculated and notified to the driver. Since Kuhn does not disclose or suggest evaluating the driving condition of the vehicle based on the accumulative factors as recited in Applicant's independent claims 1, 6, 10 and 15.

Therefore, Applicant's independent claims 1, 6, 10 and 15, as well as the dependent claims 2-5, 7-9, 11-15 and 16-18 (which incorporate all the novel and unobvious features of their respective base claims) are not anticipated by (i.e., are not readable on) Kuhn at least for the reasons set forth above.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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